Policy on pre and exit polls

2284. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government on pre and exit polls; and

(b) whether Government are of the view that they unnecessarily influence the voters?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Exit polls are a regular feature in democratic countries like the UK and the USA. These are being held regularly and publicised. In India, Doordarshan like many other private satellite channels has also been telecasting exit polls. Election Commission of India had earlier laid down guidelines for publication and dissemination of results of opinion polls/exit polls in January, 1998 during General Elections to Lok Sabha and certain Legislative Assemblies in 1998-99. However, these guidelines were withdrawn by Election Commission of India in September, 1999.

Licences for cable operators

2285. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced the system of licences for cable T.V. operators;

(b) if so, the minimum qualifications required for that; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider the desirability of introducing licence system for cable T.V. operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Presently, the cable television networks are required to get themselves registered with the concerned Head Post Offices in